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SOURCE Czechoslovak newspapers as indicated.

MORE CONSUMER GOODS AVAILABLE

CLOTHING POINTS REDUCED -- Praca, No 87, 30 March 49

Beginning 28 March 1949, the point value of certain articles of clothing will be reduced as follows:

Women's woven dresses containing not more than 20 percent wool are reduced from 42 to 25 points; women's dresses of woollike cellulose, from 42 to 20 points. Other women's dresses are reduced from 25 to 20 points. Women's winter coats containing up to 30 percent wool are reduced from 65 to 50 points, and women's winter coats of other material, without linings, from 35 to 25 points. Girls' dresses containing up to 20 percent wool are reduced from 24 to 20 points, and girls' dresses of other materials are reduced from 20 to 15 points

The following articles will continue to be sold at their normal point values: men's long woolen overcoats, 65 points; women's winter coats, 65; boys' overcoats, 40; girls' winter coats, 37; and children's winter coats, 20. These can all be bought on coupons 1-40, and on the 30 recently released coupons, which so far have been valid only for the purchase of certain kinds of winter shoes.

BLACK MARKET SUPPRESSED -- Mlada Fronta, No 63, 16 Mar 49

The economic control organs are constantly watching the price and movement of goods on the free market. In January and February 1949 there was absolutely no trade in country butter, eggs, milk, or poultry on the black market. Since the flour ration is now close to the demands of consumers, it is little sought on the black market.

Interest in the free food market is still great. Rice, chocolate candies, eggs, and butter show the greatest turnover. The free market also has plenty of textiles. Interest in high-priced goods is small.

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Between 1 January and 28 February 1949, the control organs of the Kraj National Committee of Prague made 7,424 arrests of black marketeers and secured 1,273 convictions. A total of 13,636,436 crowns was imposed in fines, and many prison sentences were imposed. In 520 cases of group fines, 162,500 crowns in fines were exacted and 3,802,103 crowns worth of goods and cash were confiscated. Illegal profits to the amount of 1,640,911.70 crowns were confiscated in these arrests.

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